

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. through 19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) A passenger aircraft comprising:

a modular overhead privacy system including:

a plurality of independent privacy modules located longitudinally spaced apart, above a passenger cabin, in an overhead crown area of the aircraft, wherein each said privacy module is physically associated with at least one specific seat in the passenger cabin and encroaches a single seating location in the passenger cabin;

a plurality of access stairways providing access to the privacy modules from the passenger cabin such that each said privacy module is accessible by a separate independent one of the access stairways; and

at least one emergency gateway within each said privacy module to allow individuals of the privacy modules to exit each said privacy module and enter a longitudinally adjacent privacy module without entering the passenger cabin.

21. (previously presented) The aircraft of Claim 20, wherein each access stairway leads to a privacy module floor platform adapted to allow an individual to comfortably navigate himself/herself within the related privacy module.

22. (previously presented) The aircraft of Claim 20, wherein the specific seat physically associated with each independent privacy module is located near a bottom portion of the respective access stairway.

23. (original) The aircraft of Claim 20, wherein each said privacy module includes at least one berth adapted to provide an individual a private repose space separate from the passenger cabin.

24. (original) The aircraft of Claim 23, wherein each said berth is further adapted to provide the individual sufficient space for the individual to fully recline.

25. (original) The aircraft of Claim 20, wherein each said access stairway includes a set of security doors adapted to prevent traversing of the respective access stairway when the security doors are in a closed position.

26. (previously presented) The aircraft of Claim 20, wherein a bottom portion of each access stairway includes a platform including at least one step facing a direction orthogonal to a longitudinal centerline of the passenger cabin and adapted to provide access to the access stairway from a lateral direction.

27. (previously presented) The aircraft of Claim 20, wherein the privacy modules are longitudinally spaced apart in accordance with a seat pitch of a plurality of rows of seats in the passenger cabin such that each access stairway descends from its respective privacy module so that a bottom portion of the access stairway is physically associated with a specific row of seats and an upper portion of the access stairway provides sufficient access to a row of seat behind the row of seats associated with the bottom portion of the access stairway.